

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to an article I read yesterday in *The Miami Herald*. The headline is "Pentagon to offer swine flu vaccine to terror suspects."

While much of America waits in line to receive their H1N1 vaccination, the Pentagon is giving priority status to accused terrorists. This does not bode well with me or my constituents. If taxpayers need to wait their turn to be vaccinated, then so should the accused terrorists at Guantanamo Bay.

Next week my subcommittee, the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, along with the Health Subcommittee, will hold a hearing into where we are with the manufacturing and distribution of the H1N1 flu vaccine. We will hear from officials from the Department of Health and Human Services as well as from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the manufacturers of the vaccine.

I look forward to our hearing next week, and I urge Pentagon officials to reconsider their decision to vaccinate terrorist detainees ahead of Americans who are waiting for their H1N1 vaccines.

[From *The Miami Herald*, Oct. 28, 2009]

PENTAGON TO OFFER SWINE FLU VACCINE TO TERROR SUSPECTS

(By Carol Rosenberg)

Even as some Americans await the arrival of their swine flu vaccines, the Pentagon has decided to vaccinate both soldiers and terror suspects at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

There was no word Wednesday on when the first vaccines would reach the remote base in southeast Cuba.

But U.S. military there were notified late last week that service members would get their H1N1 virus vaccinations first. Private contractors and sailors' wives and children could get theirs afterward "as the supply permits."

And that means the 221 war on terror captives would also be vaccinated first, said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Brook DeWalt, a Guantanamo spokesman.

"They get all the same quality medical care and treatment options that are provided to service members," he said by telephone. "But they don't have to wait for appointments."

Each detainee would be given the vaccine on a voluntary basis, just like "with our seasonal flu vaccination program," said Army Maj. Diana R. Haynie, a prison camps public affairs officer.

Guantanamo senior staff also had no plans to address the overarching question of whether a vaccine named colloquially for a pig would present particular challenges.

Instead, Haynie said, a detainee could raise any concerns when he is offered it in person.

Haynie added that the detention center's Muslim American "cultural affairs advisor" said "there is no religious reason for detainees not to receive the H1N1 vaccine."

But a former U.S. Army Muslim chaplain predicted there might be some objections among a captive population long characterized by the Pentagon as devotees of a radical fringe of Islam.

"There was huge resistance back in 2003 when just the regular flu shots were administered," said James "Yusef" Yee, who left the Army as a captain after being cleared of wrongdoing during his Guantanamo duty.

"Many prisoners feared they were being experimented on with some sort of truth serum or other drugs," and refused, he said.

Instead, they were tackled and shackled so prison camp staff could "forcefully" administer the shots—something DeWalt said could not happen today.

"Immunizations and all that kind of stuff are always voluntary for them," added DeWalt. "I'm sure there'll be a percentage who will be accepted, and I'm sure there'll be another percentage that declines."

Similar plans are underway to give the vaccine to federal inmates at the Bureau of Prisons, where some Guantanamo detainees may be headed as part of President Barack Obama's Guantanamo closure order.

A spokeswoman said Wednesday that the BOP had ordered enough H1N1 vaccines for all of its prisoners but "we just don't know when we're going to receive it."

U.S. military at Guantanamo have long engaged in an uneasy balancing act between the captives' rights to practice mainstream Islam and security concerns.

During the 2003 showdown over run-of-the-mill flu shots, Yee recalled, the detention center command staff waited until after dark to administer "the shots during Ramadan—as some prisoners believed the injections would break their fasts."

Either way, Yee predicted: "I would anticipate prisoners objecting to the vaccinations" among a captive population that includes 17 men whom federal courts have ordered set free.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. BRADY of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, now we know. Speaker PELOSI has released her final health care bill and scheduled a vote within a week. The Pelosi plan is a 2,000-page, \$1 trillion, unapologetic, full-throated government takeover of America's health care system.

I am devoting every waking hour to stopping this bill, which will interject government into the most intimate health care decisions, drive up costs in the deficit, force millions of people into a government-run plan, raise taxes on professionals and small businesses, open the door to taxpayer-funded abortions, provide care for illegal immigrants, and exempt Members of Congress.

I call on every American who cares about our Nation to engage now in every district and every community in every way. These moments come but once in a lifetime. For our children and their future, the time for freedom, the time for action is now.

HOME HEALTH CARE

(Mr. MELANCON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MELANCON. Madam Speaker, today I come to the floor to talk about an issue which I think makes a lot of sense: home health care. Being from a rural area in Louisiana, home health aides provide a tremendous benefit to my constituents, many of whom live 25 minutes or more from the nearest hospital. I believe home health care pro-

vides a necessary service to those who need a little extra assistance meeting their health care goals.

A new report by Avalere Health found that home health use saved Medicare \$1.71 billion from 2005 to 2006. That's a real savings while providing good health care.

Here is an example from my district. Jimmy Jordan's life was saved when his mom's home health care nurse, Rochelle Mixon, noticed he was suffering from congestive heart failure. Since being released from the hospital with his own home health care service, he has lost 170 pounds and improved his diabetes. He no longer uses a wheelchair and has improved mobility. Jimmy says he owes his life to the care he has received from his home health care team.

I believe in home health care, and I urge my colleagues to support these providers as we move forward with the debate on health care reform. Home health makes a difference and saves money. There is no better combination than that.

IN DEFENSE OF DISSENT

(Mr. MCCLINTOCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in defense of dissent.

It is a sad milestone when it becomes necessary to do so, but the ferocity with which this administration is pursuing its critics in business and journalism is becoming alarming.

This isn't the first time Presidents have lashed out at dissenters. But when a government has seized the power to commandeer companies, dictate salaries for private citizens, establish government monopolies covering entire sectors of our economy, threaten companies with official retribution for merely communicating with their customers, and, as of yesterday, to punish thought itself, it evinces a design and an intent that transcends robust debate and becomes deeply threatening to the freedom of expression that our Constitution protects.

If they can intimidate institutions like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Fox News, they know that others will fall silently into line. And that, Madam Speaker is a disturbing prospect.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, we have heard people on both sides of the aisle talk about the Congressional Budget Office, the CBO, as this unbiased entity, and it has a proud history of being unbiased. But the fact is that after the CBO director got called to the woodshed, to the White House, after CBO delivered a score that the White House did not like, it has become more of a lapdog than a watchdog.